

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 19015 261158Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 CU-04 /068 W

-----068928 261310Z /45

R 261031Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5553

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, TH

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF THAMMASAT 18

REF: BANGKOK 18800

1. AUTHORITIES AT THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S OFFICE (JAG) OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY AUG. 26 THAT 18 ACTIVISTS DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVENTS OF LAST OCTOBER 6 AT THAMMASAT UNIV. WILL FACE MILITARY TRIAL, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER.

2. ON AUG. 26 THE THAI MILITARY PROSECUTOR FILED CHARGES OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY, TREASON, MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INTRUSION, INCITING UNREST, AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AGAINST THE 18 ACTIVISTS, 14 OF WHOM WERE STUDENTS. SIX OF THE 18 WILL FACE THE ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF LESE MAJESTE'.

3. ACCORDING TO BANGKOK PRESS REPORTS, THE RTG RELEASED THE LAST OF THE OCTOBER 6 DETAINEES WHO WERE NOT FORMALLY CHARGED. HOWEVER THE NATION REPORTED ON AUGUST 26 THAT ONE OF THOSE RELEASED A CHULAHONGKORN UNIVERSITY STUDENT, WAS RE-ARRESTED ON OTHER CHARGES. OFFICIALS

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AT THE THAI JAG OFFICE TOLD EMBASSY THIS STUDENT, WHO IS SAID TO BE THE SON OF VIETNAMESE PARENTS WHO CAME TO THAILAND MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, IS BEING QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS FAMILY BACKGROUND.

4. REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO BRING THE THAMMASAT 18 TO TRIAL HAS PROVIDED LITTLE REACTION

AMONG STUDENTS IN BANGKOK THUS FAR. FACULTY MEMBER
AT CHULALONGKORN TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER AUGUST 25 THAT
STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO WATCH THE COURT PROCEEDINGS
QUIETLY FOR THE TIME BEING AND NOT RPT, NOT
MAKE THEIR SENTIMENTS PUBLIC UNTIL THE COURT ANNOUNCES
THE VERDICTS. WE UNDERSTAND THE TRIAL MAY LAST AS LONG
AS TWO MONTHS.
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO19015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770309-0476
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770821/aaaaaqub.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: e180e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 18800
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1478545
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIAL OF THAMMASAT 18
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PINS, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e180e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009